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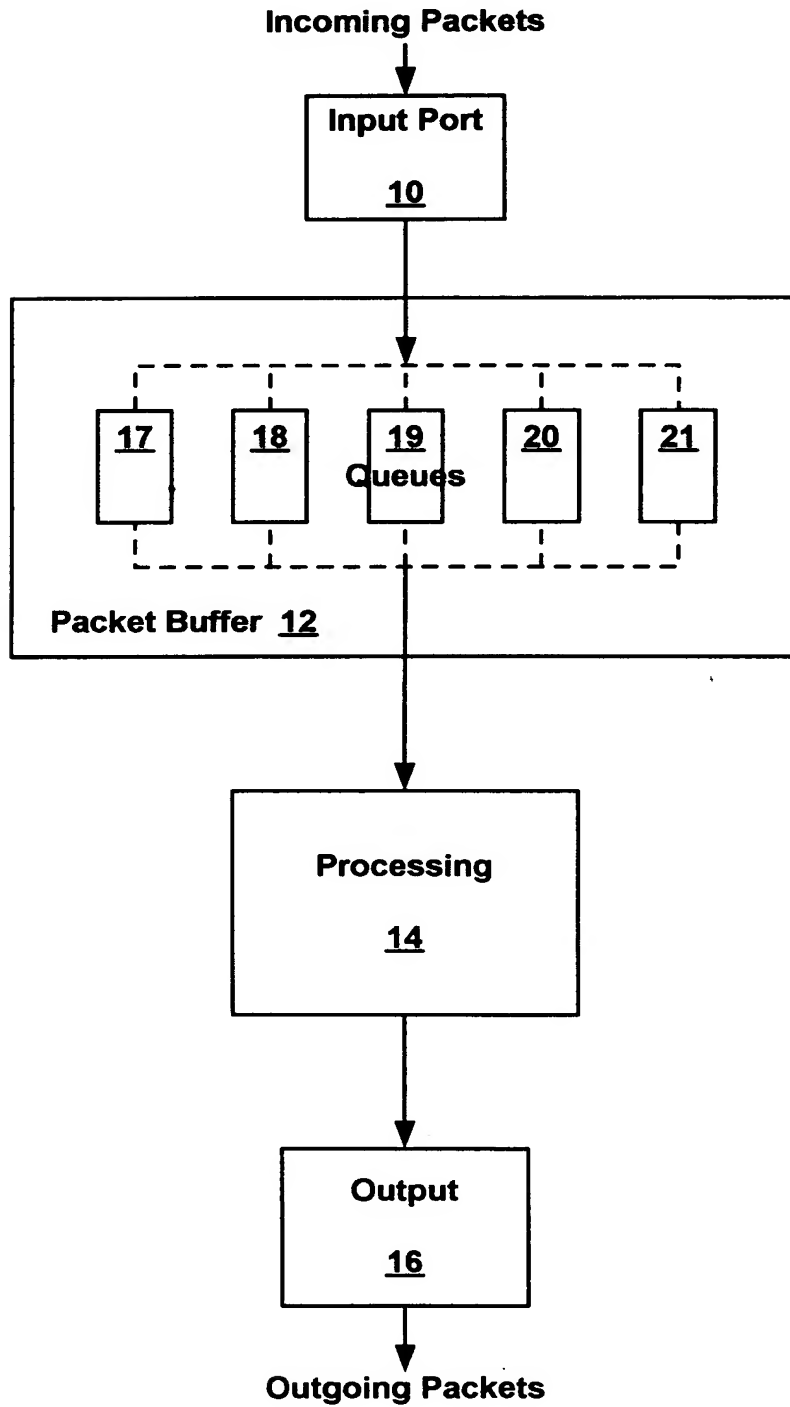


FIG. 1 (Prior Art)

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100

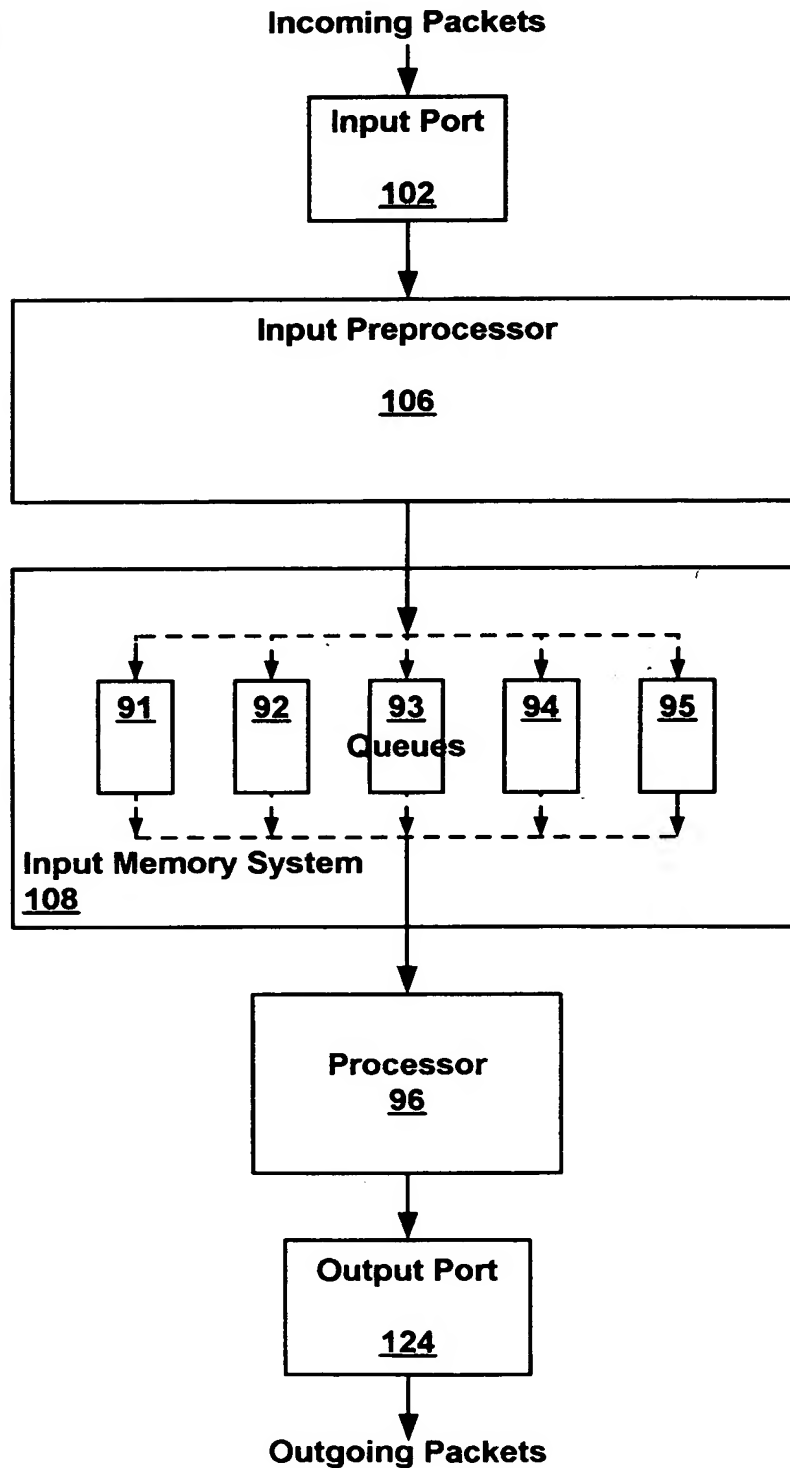


FIG. 2

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300

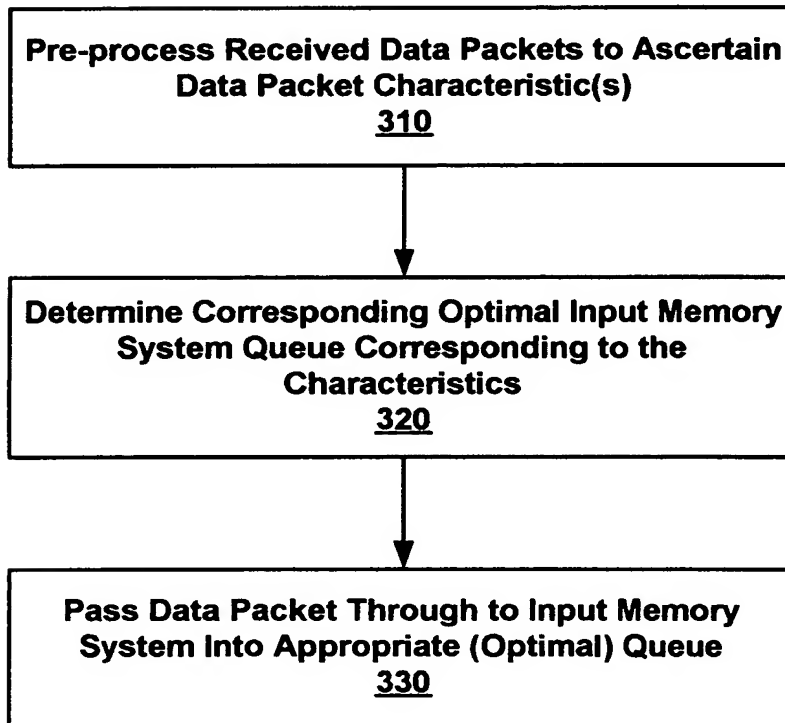


FIG. 3A

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Ascertain Data Packet Characteristic

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classifying type of the data packet (e.g., broadcast, multicast, unicast, etc.) 371

detecting encapsulation of the data packet, if any 372

assigning a priority corresponding to tag accompanying the data packet 373

assigning a priority corresponding to another criterion 374

decoding an Internet Protocol (IP) header 375

decoding a Transfer Control Protocol (TCP) header 376

detecting a class assigned to the data packet 377

detecting a class of service rating assigned to the data packet 378

detecting a quality of service rating assigned to the data packet 379

detecting a differentiated service field, if any 381

other data packet input memory system queue assignment information 382

FIG. 3B

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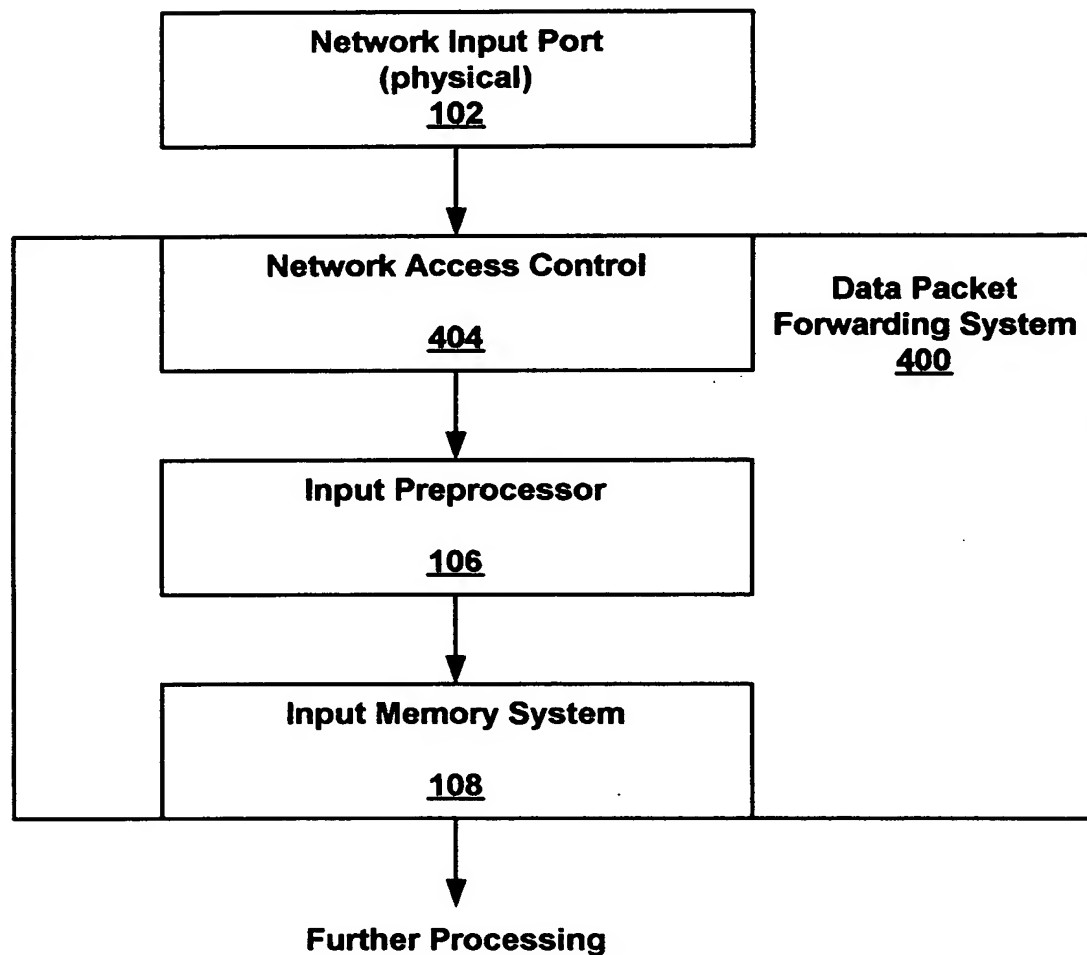


FIG. 4

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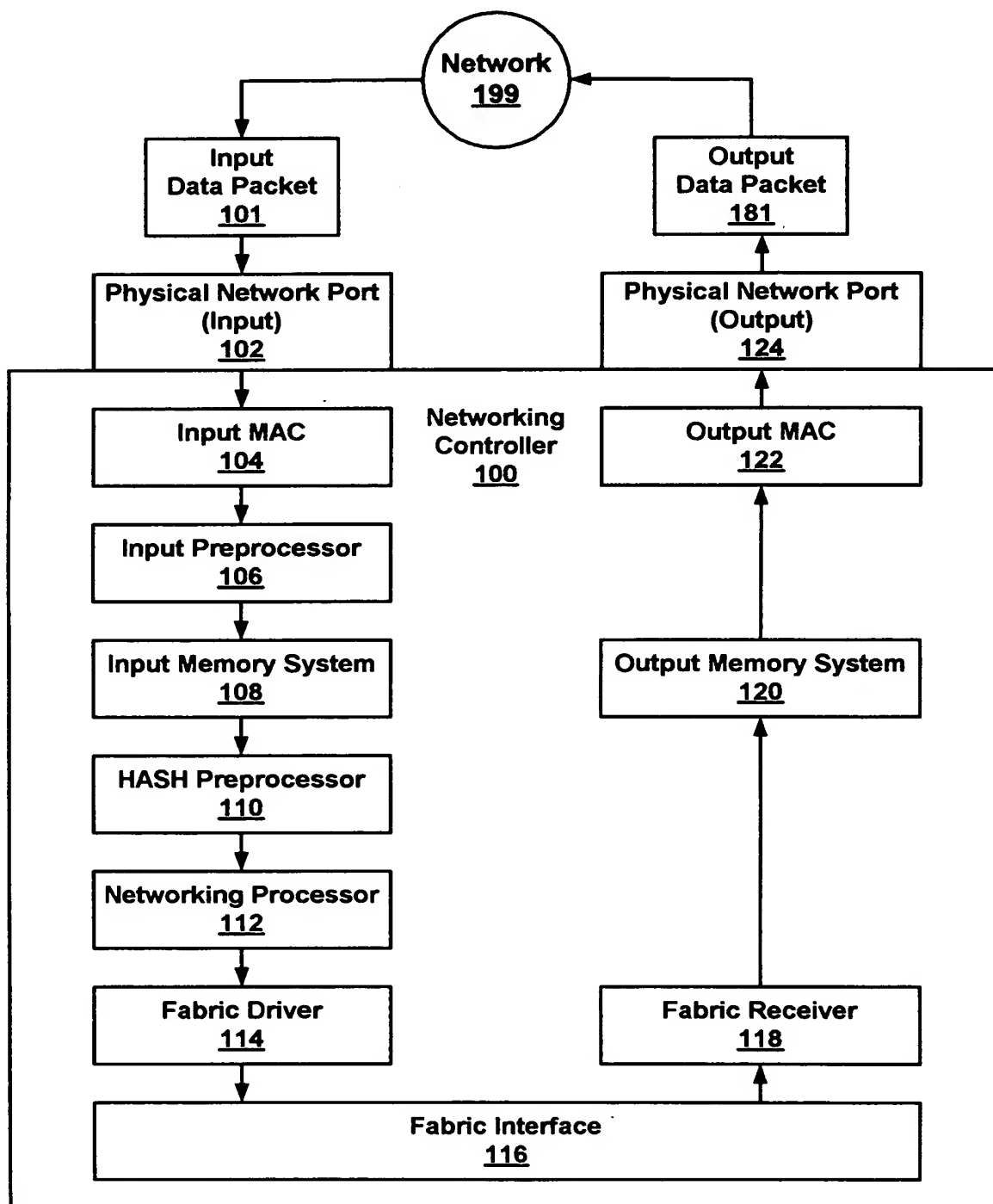


FIG. 5